



STATEMENT OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA DURING THE TWENTIETH JOINT MEETING OF WORKING GROUPS A AND B OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY ORGANIZATION 2 APRIL 2013, DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR MAHMOUD HASSAN ELAMIN, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN

Mr Chairman,

1. On behalf of the States Signatories of the Group of 77 and China, I would like to take note that Ambassador Jargalsaikhan Enkhsaikhan will preside and Mr David McCormack will coordinate the Twentieth Session of Working Groups A and B. The Group thanks the Executive Secretary, Ambassador Tibor Tóth, for his introductory remarks at the commencement of the meeting.

2. As previously mentioned at the opening session of the Fortieth Session of Working Group B on 18 March 2013, the Group reiterates its view to discuss the need of electing Vice Chairs on a regional basis for its subsidiary bodies at the next session of the Preparatory Commission.

Mr Chairman,

3. The Group would also like to reaffirm the need for the Working Groups to set clear priorities to the Secretariat, as the Provisional Technical Secretariat (PTS) prepares for the 2014 budget cycle. As stated by the Group in its opening remarks to the Fortieth Session of Working Group B, preparation for the Programme and Budget should take into account two important aspects: the global economic situation of austerity and the current perspective of the entry into force of the Treaty. Fiscal prudence is of the utmost importance and as such, the Group is confident that the PTS will suggest a programme driven budget that adheres to a zero growth policy.

4. The Group would appreciate if the PTS could organize a briefing to discuss the initial draft of the Programme and Budget for 2014, before recommendations could be made in Working Group A in May. The Group would also appreciate if the PTS could elaborate a non-paper highlighting the main elements of what it plans to be the initial draft of the Programme and Budget for 2014. This non-paper would be made available before the suggested briefing and would contribute to ensure the appropriate dialogue on planning priorities and efficiencies to be included in the initial draft Programme and Budget for 2014.

Mr Chairman,

5. To conclude, the Group of 77 and China welcomes the important work conducted by the PTS on building technical capacity in developing countries. Since capacity building activities consume less than 10% of the International Data Centre budget, the Group is of the view that any proposed savings should not harm those activities. The Group of 77 and China is convinced that all efforts pursued in the realms of capacity building and training will doubtlessly enhance the capability of all States to participate fully in the verification system, by helping National Data Centres to fulfil their tasks and station operators to sustain the International Monitoring System network.

With these remarks, I thank you.